

# Cardinal's Liturgical Institute Trains Church Leaders

## *Phenomenal Growth and Growing Influence*

In the years since Cardinal Francis George founded the Liturgical Institute at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, it has educated 14 diocesan directors of worship from the dioceses of St. Louis, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, La Crosse, Tuscon, Steubenville, Las Vegas, Duluth, and Phoenix, as well as dioceses in Nigeria, Uganda, and Singapore. Speakers in the Institute-sponsored events have included Francis Cardinal Arinze of the Vatican's Congregation for Worship; Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Canberra, Australia; Msgr. Bruce Harbert of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy; Msgr. James Moroney of the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy; eminent theologian Msgr. Kevin Irwin of the Catholic University of America; architect Duncan Stroik of the University of Notre Dame; musician Rev. Jan Michael Joncas; and Sr. Sara Butler, member of the Vatican's International Theological Commission. The Institute has educated seven school teachers, 5 seminary professors, two high school presidents, and its conferences, lectures and workshops have taught over 2000 participants who have brought their liturgical education back to their schools, parishes and homes. Its publishing house, Hillenbrand Books, has released 20 titles with more on the way. Its first doctoral student will graduate this May and teach in an archdiocesan seminary on the east coast.

And the Institute is just getting started.

### *Wish of Cardinal Bernardin*

Plans for a liturgical institute date back to Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's time, but it was Cardinal Francis George who mustered the will and resources to see it brought into existence. Seeing a need for education and scholarship which would ground Liturgical Studies in the rich and stabilizing influence of sacramental theology, George's intent was nonetheless deeply pastoral. "A guiding principle of the Liturgical Institute is that all theological studies are ultimately pastoral in intent, and that the liturgical life of a parish can benefit greatly from well-educated clergy and laity," Liturgical Institute Director, Fr. Douglas Martis said.

In 1999, Cardinal George asked Monsignor M. Francis Mannion, founder of the Society for Catholic Liturgy and Rector of Salt Lake City's Cathedral of the Madeleine, to be the Institute's founding director. Arriving in the summer of 2000 with assistant director Dr. Denis McNamara, the task of starting the Institute was as daunting as it was exciting.

"We were shown some empty offices and told to create an institute of the highest caliber," McNamara said. "We had to

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begin from the ground up by assessing the needs of the Church, the archdiocese and then develop a curriculum, find faculty and recruit students."

As part of the larger institution of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, many of the fledgling Institute's tasks were greatly simplified. "The administration of the university was helpful from the beginning," McNamara said, "offering us advice, facilities, and support. But the driving force behind the Institute was always the Cardinal himself. He never said 'no' when we asked him to meet with us, talk with our students, or speak at our conferences. We owe him a great deal for imagining the Institute as a place where liturgical studies and sacramental theology would work together."

### *Institute's Beginnings*

Like most promising projects, the Liturgical Institute started small. "Our first entering class had seven students," said Fr. Martis, who became the Institute's director in 2004. "But we were edified by the support we received from Bishop Burke, then of LaCrosse, who sent his worship office director. We also welcomed a student sent by Cardinal

Ambrozic of Toronto, a priest musician who now heads their cathedral choir school. "This episcopal support was important," he said, "but we also enrolled two lay women that year who have been serving their local churches since their studies ended."

The Institute's student body has been growing ever since, to its current level of 39. "In our strategic planning, our goal was to have 12 to 15 students in our full-year program and 25 in our summer program at the end of five years. We were thrilled to do it in two," McNamara said. Students have included recent college graduates, second career lay people, Benedictine monks, seminary professors, religious sisters, and diocesan clergy.

One student, Daria Lucas, was in the Institute's first graduating class in 2003. With a bachelor's and master's degree from Yale University and six years as a cloistered nun, Daria embraced the Institute's academic curriculum and prayer life. "We were a tight-knit group," she said, "not only from being in classes together, but from singing the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours together every day." Lucas is now a doctoral student in theology at the University of Notre Dame.

### *Publishing and Conferences*

A central part of the Institute's founding vision was the formation of a publishing imprint to carry its vision beyond the campus borders, one which would combine the insights of the Second Vatican Council with the great tradition of the Church. And thus Hillenbrand Books was born.

Named for the Archdiocese of Chicago's famed promoter of liturgical renewal and social justice Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand, the imprint has already published 20 titles ranging in subject matter from liturgical music to eucharistic theology. With testimonials coming from such figures as Cardinal Pell of Australia, Bishops Terrence Prendergast and Donal Murray, theologians Monsignor Kevin Irwin, Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright and Dr. Maxwell Johnson, as well as Cardinal George himself, the new line of books has made a significant splash in the theological publishing world by presenting the liturgy in its broader theological, historical, pastoral and aesthetic dimensions.

Similarly, the Institute has sponsored conferences and lectures on liturgical topics, opening up the program's content to parishes across the nation and the world. Public conferences have addressed liturgical art and architecture, music, translations, preaching, the Eucharist, and the liturgical legacy of Pope John Paul II.

With leading theologians, architects, musicians and pastors giving talks and workshops, the best ideas of academia can be brought to the country's parishioners in the pew. Pastors have brought their parish staffs or building committees to these events, helping foster parish unity. "What I find most rewarding about all of the Institute's programs," Fr.



"The Liturgical Institute prepared me to meet the responsibilities of running a diocesan worship office. The teaching was true to the doctrine of the Church and the

Holy Father while reaching into the core of Vatican II and helping me spread the word in my diocese."

REV. BILL McCUMBER, Director, Office of Worship, Archdiocese of Saint Louis  
2006 Liturgical Institute graduate



"The Liturgical Institute's combination of practical skills training and theological education prepared me for the demands of a busy cathedral parish and the

preparation of large diocesan liturgies: ordinations, anniversary masses, and the wonderful richness of our multicultural liturgical events."

PATRICIA STILL, Coordinator of Special Events, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago  
2004 Liturgical Institute graduate



"The Institute's program combined both classroom study and community liturgical prayer. These theoretical and practical elements prepared me well to

serve my diocese and further the new evangelization by emphasizing the mystical catechesis of Vatican II."

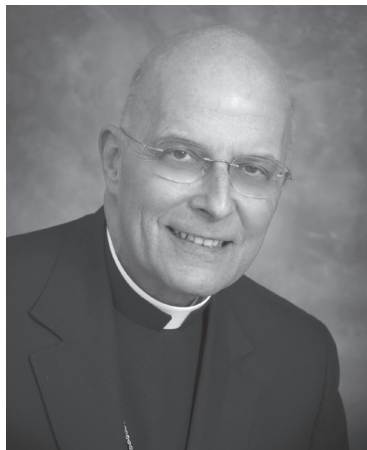
CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS, Director, Sacred Worship Office, Diocese of Lacrosse  
2003 Liturgical Institute graduate



"The Institute's program integrates the received tradition with lived liturgical life, which helped me understand the liturgy from the inside. It prepared me

for my doctoral studies by providing a liturgical framework for understanding the history of theology."

DARIA LUCAS, doctoral candidate, Theology University of Notre Dame  
2004 Liturgical Institute graduate



Cardinal George founded the Liturgical Institute in the year 2000 to advance "a new era in liturgical renewal." His vision to unite sacramental theology and liturgical studies within the framework of pastoral theology has shaped the program's curriculum and activities.

More information on the Liturgical Institute and its programs can be obtained by contacting the Institute: 1000 East Maple Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060. Phone: 847.837.4542. [www.liturgicalinstitute.org](http://www.liturgicalinstitute.org)

Martis said, "is that we can help people do what the Church asks us to do— find their home in Jesus Christ through the liturgy. What we do is not about politics or agendas, but about helping Christ draw people to himself. This is what service within the Church is ultimately about."

